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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/827,431	04/06/2001	Imaddin Othman Albazz	CA920000034US1	6091
36736	7590	11/27/2007	EXAMINER	
DUKE W. YEE			ELISCA, PIERRE E	
YEE & ASSOCIATES, P.C.				
P.O. BOX 802333			ART UNIT	
DALLAS, TX 75380			PAPER NUMBER	
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			11/27/2007	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/827,431

Applicant(s)

ALBAZZ ET AL.

Examiner

Pierre E. Elisca

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 16, 20-27 and 29-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 16, 20-27, and 29-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/22/07.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to Applicant's response filed on 09/14/2007.
2. Claims 1-14, 16, 20-27, and 29-35 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-14, 16, 20-27, and 29-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Shirley, Robert Bryce et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,692,206).

As per claims 1-14, 16, 20-27, and 29-35 Shirley discloses a method for automating the generation of various legal documents related to a negotiated agreement, comprising:

A computer for storing at least one compilation of business rules comprising a plurality of rules available to be selected for inclusion in the contract (real estate contract), storing at least one terms and conditions set containing parameters corresponding to selected rules from the compilation of business rules, generating links between the compilation of business rules and the terms and conditions set to generate specific terms and conditions to be embodied in the contract, and interlocking the compilation of business rules, the terms and conditions set and the links to lock the lock (see., fig 8,

col 1-col 12). Applicant should note that the step of closing the real estate transaction also includes signing (or digital signature or interlocking) all the documents.

Furthermore, claim 1 recites "a computer for" which is not performing any function and can be regarding as intended use.

6. (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-14, 16, 20-27, and 29-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Broerman, Vincent S. US 2004/0054606 A1 (**continuation application 09/362,107, filed on July 07, 1999**).

In regard to claims 1-14, 16, 20-27, and 29-35, it is the Examiner's principle position that the cited reference (Broerman) discloses a real estate computer network 10 that facilitates a real estate transaction between a buyer and a seller by electronically communicating between the parties 12, 13 and third parties such as a real estate facilitating entities 24 (e.g., lawyer, mortgage provider, title provider) over a network, comprising:

A computer for storing at least one compilation of business rules comprising a plurality of rules available to be selected for inclusion in the contract (real estate contract), storing at least one terms and conditions set containing parameters corresponding to selected rules from the compilation of business rules, generating links between the compilation of business rules and the terms and conditions set to generate specific

terms and conditions to be embodied in the contract, and interlocking (or digital signature during closing) the compilation of business rules, the terms and conditions set and the links to lock the lock (see., fig 8, col 1-col 12). Applicant should note that the step of closing the real estate transaction also includes signing (or digital signature, see paragraph [0042] or interlocking) all the documents see., figs 4, 5, 5C, 6 and 7, paragraph [0042]-[0051].

As per claim 6, Broerman discloses the claimed limitation in which the contract is locked by the implementation of digital signatures (see., paragraph [0042]).

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS

8. Applicant's arguments filed on 09/14/2007 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of new ground (s) of rejection.

REMARKS

9. Claim 1 recites "a computer for" which is not performing any function and can be regarding as intended use.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pierre E. Elisca whose telephone number is 571 272 6706. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 to 5:00. Patents and hoteling.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Fischer can be reached on 571 272 6779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

November 13, 2007


PIERRE EDDY ELISCA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600